

Annexation of Texas

Weymouth. June 29.

Wednesday night.

Dear Deborah

I write on this to save paper, & I write at all more to ensure an answer by the 1st ^{at} night than for any other reason. Ma still holds in her purpose of coming Sat & bringing Henry. As soon as he comes measures will have to be taken with regard to clothing him, for he is nearly destitute. Yesterday Mrs Ford, Mary Ann & James came over from Dedham in a chaise & passed the day. They were very well & appeared to enjoy their visit. Eliza hath. has opened a correspondence with Nat South and & writes herself down as Abolitionist to all intents & purposes. - Aunt Priscilla was bled on Monday, but does not feel much better for it. The Dr thought bleeding all she needed. but thinks it will take some time for her to get well. Grandma is as usual & the rest rather poorly. I some think of coming in town a week from to day which will be just a week before our Anniversary meeting. As I shall probably stay a week in town when I come, I have thought of coming so as to take in the 4th of July. What do you think of it? When I come I shall go out to Brookline & out to Cambridge. I think it would be well to get Ma's bonnet so that she can wear it out. The enclosed I have written for the Liberator if you & Maria see no objection to its publication. I wish to correct what I think is a great mistake in Whittier's reasoning.

If you can, get the last Re-order for it contains
a scandalous account of the manner in which the
A. S. Memorial was received by the first Ecclesiastical
body to which it was submitted. It stirred my indignation
so much that I could not help writing a few lines
additional.

The true descendants of the pilgrims cannot fail to cherish
in their inmost souls, the principles of Christian Freedom:—
the children of the far-sighted founders of New England can-
not fail to perceive that while, under any pretence, one hu-
man being is held in slavery in a nation of which they form
a part, their own freedom is in peril. Every dictate, there-
fore, of Christian philanthropy and self preservation, is, to
strive for the extinction of slavery.

Who have power to abolish it in the District of Colum-
bia, and to prevent its further progress by forbidding the in-
troduction of slaveholding Texas? Our northern senators
and representatives, who form a majority in Congress.—
Why do they not use this power? Because they are not sure
that it would meet the wishes of their constituents. Who
are their constituents? You: women of the North! You,
with your husbands and brethren, are their constituents. Re-
member that the representation of our country is based on
the numbers of the population, irrespective of sex. Let
us not forget that our representatives are now borne down
by southern violence, and require our utmost aid to enable
them to act according to their consciences. What then will
be their condition under the increase of violence, and the
multiplication of arrogant demands, which must grow out of
such an accession of power to the South, as the annexation
of a slaveholding territory large enough to constitute five
slave-states, each as large as Kentucky? In vain is it said,
this is nothing to us. Have we not a COUNTRY, and is she
not dishonored before all the nations, by her inconsistency
and shameless violation of faith, in refusing for 30 years, to
acknowledge the independence of Hayti with its 900,000
of inhabitants, and its extensive commercial relations, while
she sends a vile and refuse population of only 30,000 to take
possession of Texas—aids them with arms and troops to re-
volt against Mexico, acknowledges them to be an indepen-
dent people—and is preparing at an extra session of Congress,
to annex them to herself, that she may increase her profits in
SLAVES? Is it nothing to us that Mexico and the Indian
tribes should unite against our country's aggressions?—that
our husbands and our sons should be drafted from our house-
hold-floors, to encounter the storm of fire and blood that will
sweep along the south-western border? Is it nothing to us
if the north,—called on by those in Congress, who will then
have the power and the disposition to use it, at once to de-
fend them and to OBEY, should dissolve the national connex-
ion? Is it nothing to us, if, amid the wreck of States—
United no more, brother should battle against brother and
friend against friend? Our brothers—our friends? And
is it indeed nothing to us that the scourged and trampled
negro, A SLAVE NO MORE, should take advantage of the
crisis to make his being felt, and rise to the shedding of
blood on every southern threshold!

However ignorant, thoughtless, or negligent others may be
—and though we may eventually be obliged to mourn over
their negligence in desolation and ashes,—let us free our
souls from self-reproach: let it sink deep into our hearts, that
the unutterable destruction that sooner or later awaits our
country, unless slavery be abolished, is as certain as that
God judges and punishes nations, in this world, according to
their evil deeds.

While this truth is warm in our souls, let us reflect that
conduct is the test of sincerity, and that we are upholding
slavery in the most effectual manner, if we keep silence
when an opportunity offers of lifting up our voices against it.
Sustaining, as we do, all the relations of womanhood, we
cannot but be shocked at a system which debases woman to
a brute, by making her an article of property, keeping her
in ignorance and heathenism, buying, selling, scourging and
dividing her from children and friends at will. But if we
are not enough shocked at its existence to pray both secretly
and publicly, of God and man for its extinction, we are par-
takers of the sin; and may God forgive our hypocrisy, and
humanize our hearts!

Let us now resolve to cast aside all the temptations of in-
dolence and selfishness;—to deem it a dignifying privilege to
redeem our leisure hours from frivolity, by laboring with un-
remitting constancy to unite the hearts and voices of others
with our own, for the immediate abolition of all slavery over
which Congress possesses jurisdiction. Let us count it but
a small thing to toil thus voluntarily through the dusty sum-
mer, knowing there are in our country, hundreds of thousands
among those who are scourged to unrequited toil, who would
'count it joy enough to perish, being free.' We are not idly
spending our strength for nought. It is for the honor of our
country! for the welfare of our children, and their remotest
posterity; that their inheritance of civil and religious liberty
be not vilely cast away! It is for millions of our enslaved coun-
trymen, and for the bondman of all future generations! It is
for the fundamental principles of Christianity, wherein lie our
salvation.

One single hour devoted to the consideration of this subject,
will show its mighty tendencies through all time—will de-
monstrate that the present moment is giving its coloring to the
far eternity!

In view of this crisis, unparalleled in the world's moral
existence, let us go up, in the spirit, into the councils of the
nation, and ask in the name of God and the human race for
the freedom of the 7000 in the District of Columbia, and for
a strenuous effort to avert the wrath gathering against that
day of wrath which shall witness the annexation of Texas.

Let every woman into whose hands this page falls, IN-
STANTLY, (for the work must be done before the extra Sep-
tember session,) prepare four rolls of paper, and attach one
to each of the annexed forms of petition; and with pen and
ink-horn in hand, and armed with affectionate, but uncon-
querable determination, go from door to door 'among her
own people,' that every one of them may have an opportunity
of affixing her name to these four memorials:—and the ben-
ediction of God and good men, and the grateful intercessions
of the enslaved and desolate, be round about every such tried
friend of humanity, in its extremest need!

By order of the Society,

MARY S. PARKER, President.

MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN, Sec'y.

N. B. Please to forward the petitions by mail (if no pri-
vate opportunity offers,) in an envelope open at one end, ad-
dressed to Isaac Knapp, 25 Cornhill, Boston. Copied
petitions are ENTIRELY USELESS.

If you
had it
into the
Liberator
do not let
any body
even Henry
know it
is mine &
ask Johnson
to conceal
the fact
from every
body. Knapp
& all. Do
not publish
it if you
think it
best to
omit it,
but if you
choose so,
get it in
next week.
I shall
depend on
hearing by
Mr. H.
Love to
all. ever yrs A. W.

P E T I T I O N .

To the House of Representatives of the United States :

written
The undersigned, women of deeply convinced of the sinfulness of Slavery, and keenly aggrieved by its existence in a part of our country over which Congress possesses exclusive jurisdiction in all cases whatsoever, do most earnestly petition your honorable body, immediately to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia, and also to put an end to the slave-trade in the United States.

We also respectfully announce our intention, to present the same petition, yearly, before your honorable body, that it may at least be a 'memorial of us,' that in the holy cause of Human Freedom, 'We have done what we could.'

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To the Senate of the United States :

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To the Senate of the United States :

The undersigned, women of thoroughly aware of the sinfulness of Slavery, and the consequent impolicy and disastrous tendency of its extension in our country, do most respectfully REMONSTRATE, with all our souls, against the annexation of Texas to the United States as a slave-holding territory.

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deary

Miss Debora Weston.

11. West St.

Boston.

Mr Lingsbury.